



State of Connecticut

HOUSE DEMOCRATS
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TESTIMONY ON HB 5665 SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Representative Graziani, Senator Maynard, members of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I would like to testify in favor of HB 5665, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE MUNICIPAL OPTION TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS." This bill would allow municipalities to expand eligibility for their optional property tax exemption to additional, and potentially all, veterans who are property taxpayers.

Specifically, this bill seeks to allow towns that provide the optional municipal property tax exemption for veterans to establish a maximum qualifying income amount that exceeds by any amount the applicable maximum amount provided under section 12-811 of the general statutes. It costs the state nothing, in that it is enabling in nature, and even costs those municipalities that prefer not to implement it nothing.

Several constituents who are veterans consider the current structure and state-mandated income eligibility limit patently unfair to veterans. Why, they say, should the state and municipality treat some veterans to this exemption? Didn't we all serve our country with honor? Don't we all deserve this benefit? This bill would not require anything of a municipality, but simply allow it to treat all of its veterans to the same small benefit.

Thank you very much for your consideration.